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THE UNION AND OREGON.

The following paragraph was copied by the *London Globe*, some time since, from an article in the *National Intelligencer*, and from the *Globe* transferred to *Galignani's Paris Messenger*:

"The boundary between the American and British possessions, so far as now settled, runs from the Lake of the Woods along the 49th parallel of latitude to the Rocky Mountains; and it is this parallel which has been so often proposed as a compromise boundary to the Pacific. If this boundary could be made to run along the 49th parallel to a given meridian in or near the Rocky Mountains, say 110° west of Greenwich, and thence due south to that parallel of latitude which would strike the Pacific at or just south of the most southern point of Vancouver's island, which would be near the 49th parallel of latitude, it would seem, under the circumstances, as equitable a line as could be proposed."

Our government paper, the "Union," has made the appearance of this paragraph in those foreign papers, with some "approbatory remarks," the occasion for a tirade against the "patriotism" of the *National Intelligencer*. We had thought that this mode of treating the arguments of adversaries had sunk beneath any respectable, much less any official or semi-official use. It is not, however, with the good taste of the government paper that we mean to trouble ourselves. What we wish now to say to the "Union" is, that we have never arrogated to ourselves the right even of suggesting what would be an "equitable line" of division. We leave that privilege to the publicists of the "Union," but we deny not to well informed citizens the right to express their views on that or any other national question through the columns of our paper, whether their opinions accord with our own or not, and the paragraph in question was extracted from the communication of a correspondent, who had evidently studied the subject with so much care and attention that we thought his remarks well deserving the place assigned them in our paper. It is not a little to the credit of our correspondent that his proposed boundary was very nearly the same with that afterwards suggested by the venerable statesman, ALBERT GALLATIN, whose "patriotism" the government paper, free as it is in casting imputations, will hardly venture to question. But it is not our purpose to defend the "patriotism" of either of our correspondents; and our own we leave to more unprejudiced judges than the writers for the "Union."

We desire at present only to assist the official paper in extending a knowledge of its geographical attainments and its accurate acquaintance with the diplomatic history of the country. The official paper says: "The 'equitable line' proposed by the 'Intelligencer' would give to Great Britain every 'thing that she could possibly desire.'" It does not give her the right of navigating the Columbia river, a privilege already denied by, and more than once proposed to her by the authorized negotiators of our Government. Again, the official paper says that it gives to Great Britain "the whole of Vancouver's Island, and the entire Straits of Fuca, by which our vessels would be prevented from entering the valuable harbors of Admiralty Inlet, Puget's Sound, and Hood's Canal; making, in reality, the country between the forty-eighth degree and the Columbia river utterly worthless to us." The Union's favorite author, Mr. GREENHOW, and Capt. WILKES, who was commissioned by our Government to explore and make charts of that country and its waters, both place the harbors and waters enumerated south of the 48th parallel, and of course within the territory which, if that "equitable line" were adopted, would become the undisputed property of the United States. But, no doubt, Mr. GREENHOW, who had access to all the best maps and charts extant, and Captain WILKES, who surveyed the straits, sounds, harbors, and rivers, must succumb to the superior accuracy of the official paper and recant their errors. How yielding to England the whole of Vancouver's Island, will of necessity give her the sovereignty of the "entire Straits of Fuca," some ten or fifteen miles wide, and shut us out of all the inland waters south, is a geographical problem which only the astuteness of the official's writers can work out.

LATE FROM MEXICO.

We have been favored with a letter received in this city last night, from which we learn that the United States brig *Lawrence* arrived at Pensacola on the evening of the 1st instant, in thirteen days from Vera Cruz, with despatches for the SECRETARY OF STATE from Mr. SLIDELL and Commodore CONNER.

Up to the time of the sailing of the *Lawrence* (about the 10th ultimo) Mr. SLIDELL had not been received by the authorities of Mexico, and the letter says that it is supposed he will return to the United States as soon as he receives answers to the despatches which he has now forwarded.

This letter also states that the citizens of Vera Cruz were looking out and hoping for the return of SANTA ANNA from Havana; whose arrival was expected to be the signal for the authorities of Vera Cruz to declare in his favor.

No other news had transpired. The despatches for the Secretary of State are said to be very voluminous.

The sloops of war *Falmouth*, *John Adams*, and *St. Mary's*, and the brig *Porpoise*, were all at Vera Cruz. The steamer *Mississippi* and *brig Somers* were at Pensacola, the latter to sail for Vera Cruz on the afternoon of the 2d instant.

ANTI-RENTIER.—A Convention of Anti-Rent Delegates assembled at Albany on the 27th of last month. Representatives from New York city, Albany, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Columbia, Greene, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties were in attendance. Several speeches were made, and resolutions passed in which the position of the party was defined. The laws they ask for as measures of relief are:

- 1st. A law taxing the rents issuing out of real estate in the towns where the real estate is situated.
- 2d. A law abolishing the legal remedy of distress for rent.
- 3d. A law prohibiting the creation of any leasehold estate for a term exceeding twenty years.
- 4th. A law allowing a tenant, in all suits upon leases in perpetuity for life, or for a term exceeding twenty years, to show want of title in the grantor, and thereby defeat a recovery.
- 5th. A law prohibiting the devise of leasehold estates, but requiring them to be divided among heirs according to the general law of descents.

THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY.

The scene which occurred in the Senate on Thursday last, on the subject of the Oregon question, has very naturally attracted the earnest attention of the public. Conflicting as were the assumptions of the several friends of the PRESIDENT, on that occasion, the revelations of Senator HAYWOOD as to the Pacific views of the President, being generally received as authentic, were very encouraging to the friends of peace. The government paper of Friday night, it is true, endeavors, rather evasively, to divest Mr. HAYWOOD's statements of any direct authority from the PRESIDENT. The "Union" says:

"Mr. HAYWOOD, of North Carolina, spoke of the President's views in regard to the Oregon. He contended that Mr. Polk would, and should, compromise on the 49th parallel of latitude, in case Great Britain would renew the offer which the President had made to her during the last summer."

"May we be permitted to say that we did not ourselves understand Mr. HAYWOOD as intending to speak authoritatively in the name of the President, except from the printed documents. We say, with all respect, that no man, out of his Cabinet, is authorized to speak *ex cathedra* for him on this delicate and important question. He has expressed his opinions in his own messages, or through the letters of the Secretary of State. We presume that no one has a right to speak for him but from the documents which he has submitted to his country. His future course must be judged by his past conduct. Mr. Allen was himself interrogated the other day upon this question by the Senator from Maryland, and Mr. A. referred to the President's documents for his answer. We can entertain no doubt that such was the meaning of the Senator from North Carolina; and nothing but the extraordinary character of the passing scene probably prevented him from making a similarly prompt explanation."

We are not surprised that the editor of the Union should be anxious to reconcile the conflicting statements of the Senators referred to; but we imagine he will find the task more difficult than we, who are happy now to believe, will be a compromise of the conflicting claims to Oregon. We doubt if there was a person present at the scene of Thursday, besides the editor of the Union, who was not satisfied that Mr. HAYWOOD spoke under the sanction of the PRESIDENT's personal communications to him. Had this not been the case, Mr. HAYWOOD could not, as a friend of the President, have remained silent under the searching interrogatories of Mr. HANNEGAN and Mr. ALLEN. Assuming to express the President's views, it was his duty to relieve that high officer from the responsibility of his statements, unless they were warranted by direct authority from him. Possessing that authority, it would have been a breach of order, as well as of decorum, to avow it, and he therefore very properly refused to answer. Mr. ALLEN avowed such to be his interpretation of Mr. HAYWOOD's silence; and such, we presume, was that of every auditor, excepting the editor of the Union. We are aware that the conflicting asseverations of Messrs. HANNEGAN and ALLEN raise a question of veracity which the public will expect to see settled, and which must be settled, however difficult its adjustment may be, compatibly with the honor of all parties.

For us, and all who look only to the peace and true honor of the country, it is sufficient that we have now a responsible assurance that the Chief Magistrate does mean something when he talks of "negotiation" and "amicable settlement," and is relieved from the irreconcilable position which he previously occupied, of at the same time inviting negotiation and demanding every thing in dispute.

THE DEBATE IN THE SENATE.—Senator HAYWOOD's speech has burst like a bomb-shell in the camp of the ultra Oregon men of both Houses, and has thrown them into the utmost consternation and confusion. The debate that took place at the conclusion of his speech, which we publish to-day, will show the effect. It is so evident that he speaks *ex cathedra* that they know not which way to turn for consolation. Mr. HANNEGAN, indeed, hypocritically accuses the President, in consequence of this speech, of treachery and falsehood. It is worthy of remark, too, in this connection, that the "whole of Oregon" resolutions in Pennsylvania and several other States have been very quietly *not slept*. We hinted some weeks since that Mr. Polk might play with this important subject a little too long, and find himself instructed by his friends in the State Legislatures against any settlement short of 54° 40', and it would seem that our warning has not been disregarded. The whole subject is becoming not only highly interesting, but very exciting.—*Alexandria Gazette*.

We have read with much attention the elaborate and very able speech of Sir ROBERT PEEL on his proposed commercial regulations. He lays it down as a fundamental and sacred principle not to injure any existing interest. If he takes away a portion of the protection to agriculture he offers what he considers ample compensation. But while he guards against injury to agriculture he endeavors by every possible regulation to promote manufactures. He lets in every species of raw material free of duty. He knows that the struggle between England and this country is for manufacturing superiority, and he gives to the manufacturing interest every possible advantage. If the Administration in this country succeed in breaking down all protection to our manufactures Sir Robert's victory will be triumphant, and more disastrous to us than a dozen wars.—*Louisville Journal*.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, held at New York on Thursday evening, the Hon. JOHN McLEARN, of Ohio, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, was unanimously chosen President of the American Bible Society, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Governor SMITH.

The Legislature of Virginia adjourned sine die on Friday. Among the acts passed were two school bills— one to amend the present primary school system, and adding a fund to be received from the General Government of \$50,000 to \$80,000; the other establishing a system of district free schools. The latter is to be submitted to the voters at the polls in 1847, upon a demand of one third of the qualified voters, and to be adopted upon a vote of two thirds.

The New Orleans Pickneys of the 1st instant announce "that in conformity with instructions received from the Mexican Consul General at New York, Mr. O. L. DANIELSEN, the Mexican Vice Consul here, will open his office to-morrow, for the dispatch of business." This looks pacific.

The exports of Domestic Goods from Boston for the last nine months have been 71,470 bales against 54,375 bales same time last year—of which exported foreign this year 21,107; last year 18,721 bales; exported coastwise 50,363; last year 35,654 bales. The exports of ice for nine months were 25,839 tons.

THE ONE QUESTION.

In regard to all questions with foreign nations the dominant party have professed to be governed by the noble rule of "asking only what was right, and submitting to nothing that was wrong." This fine theory, however, like most professions intended to impose on the credulous masses who swallow party dogmas without examination, has been found, in practice, to mean something more nearly allied to the real nature of a party which counts amongst its auxiliaries the professors of agrarianism and anti-rentism; and that is, the demanding not only your own rights, but the rights of other people, and conceding nothing, whether right or wrong. That this is the true reading of the democratic maxim has been particularly exemplified by the party organs in regard to the Oregon dispute. There are, to be sure, some honorable exceptions among the papers which may be classed as Democratic, in so much as they advocated the election of President POLK, and have supported the policy of his Administration. Foremost among these is the New York Journal of Commerce, which we have heretofore had occasion to quote in reference to this subject, and which commands our respect for the manliness and ability with which it continues to uphold the sacred cause of peace and the true honor and interest of the country. The short article which we copy below, from that paper of Monday last, places in a strong light the inconsistency between the plausible democratic maxim cited above, and the application which they gave it on the Oregon question.

FROM THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE. OREGON AND THE SENATE.

The debate in the Senate on the Oregon question has taken a turn which must awaken through the land an interest like that which it excited in Washington. The speech of Mr. HAYWOOD, exhibiting the subject in its present position, touching its main points with great force, and claiming distinctly and repeatedly that the President is pledged to accept the offer, should it be made, of a settlement on the basis of the 49th parallel, might well be expected to create the sensation it did among the war-members of the Senate.

The interlocutory altercation respecting the President's position and pledges, made some startling exposures. It would seem from their own statements that such men as Messrs. ALLEN and HANNEGAN insist on "every inch of Oregon" at all hazards, and would fain commit the President to that extreme demand, with the full expectation of its leading sooner or later to war. They go, "neck or naught," for the whole of Oregon; talk of "the President as turning traitor (to whom, or what? to his country, or only to the clique of a party)" if he should compromise upon the 49th; and in hot passion declare "he would be sunk into an infamy so profound, a damnation so deep, that the hand of resurrection could never draw him forth."

It is, however, an ill wind that blows no good; and even from this hurricane of disappointed wrath we gather new hope of peace. The bear, driven to the wall, growls and gnashes his teeth in sheer vexation at his own impotence; and the war spirits of the Senate, the sticklers for a claim so extravagant as to be discarded by all fair minds, betray by their extreme sensitiveness to the statements of Mr. HAYWOOD, how fearful they are of being abandoned by the President to the result of their own suicidal policy. They must, if their ears are open, have some day achieved from the people, calling for peace, some such form of fair and honorable negotiation or compromise as is still within the reach of either party to the pending dispute. Even their own West will not sustain them in the mad policy of plunging fifty millions of people into war about such a bone of contention; and, left in so small a minority of the Senate and the country, we wonder not that they should writhe under the speech of Mr. HAYWOOD, and threaten to empty the vials of their wrath upon the President if he does not lend himself to the execution of their favorite but fatal plans.

To us it seems quite clear that these men are really bent on war. No other supposition can account for their course; because they must know that England will never yield to the exorbitant claim which they make. On looking again over the map of Oregon, drawn by the late Exploring Expedition, we have just counted nearly a dozen English forts in the country north of 49, and about half as many in the regions drained by the Columbia river. If we take the number of places thus occupied as the basis of comparison, we shall find the British claim, on the score of actual possession, much better than ours; and it would seem from this very map of our own, that a compromise on the 49th parallel would oblige England to yield far more than we should, and give us decidedly the best bargain. Indeed, we should give up nothing that is now in our possession, while she would relinquish a considerable number of places which she has occupied for a long time. No man, looking at this map, and seeing how extensively England has dotted it over with her forts, can for a moment suppose she will ever yield the whole territory to a claimant occupying not a quarter so many places as she does, and none at all between 49 and 54° 40', of which tract she has had actual possession for some forty years. We wonder at the strange demands of these men; and we feel a thrill of honest pride as co-patriots, when we hear Mr. HAYWOOD boldly avowing, in the name of our Government and our country, that "we would not demand the whole of Oregon, even if we could obtain it without a war." That was a noble avowal, the world will admire it; all fair-minded men through the land will cordially respond to it; and if such a spirit were carried into renewed negotiations, we should confidently anticipate a speedy adjustment to the substantial satisfaction of both parties.

We think it clear that the question of peace or war now rests with ourselves. England has evinced a spirit decidedly pacific; but our rulers and people must take care not to calculate too much on her continued forbearance. The war passion, once roused there in earnest, would render a collision inevitable; and, should popular sentiment here second the demands of the war-men in our Senate for all Oregon, at all hazards, then our next course. Here is the alternative, and it is time for the nation to look it full in the face; and, as they wish for peace, to rebuke the spirit and policy which would provoke war.

ANTICIPATING A STORM BY THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH. The various uses that will be found for the Magnetic Telegraph will not be fully ascertained till it comes fairly into operation. The knowledge of a few facts, however, enables the public to form an idea of some of the useful ends it may serve. The Toledo (Ohio) Blade points out how it may be the means of guarding against disasters on the coast. It asserts that storms progress from leeward to windward, and instances the snow storm of the 14th and 15th February, which began at Toledo on Saturday, at 4 P. M., at Buffalo at 8 P. M., and at Boston at about 5 o'clock on Sunday morning. The Blade proposes to save our coasts from shipwreck by means of the telegraph, as when that is established, that at Toledo will be able to give fifteen or sixteen hours' notice of the approach of a northeasterly storm, and vessels will have time to provide for their safety.—*Ledger*.

C. C. LANGDON, Esq., the proprietor of the *Mobile Daily Advertiser*, is desirous of disposing of an interest in said establishment to some gentleman competent to take charge of the commercial department of the paper, who has a small capital at command, and is prepared to devote his whole time to the paper. The Advertiser is a consistent and able Whig journal, and affords an excellent opportunity for any one who wishes to embark in the newspaper business.

THE IMPORTANT PATENT CAUSES DECIDED.

It is generally known that several important causes, growing out of WILLIAM WOODWORTH'S patent for a Planing Machine, originally granted in 1828, and extended by decision of the Board of Commissioners in 1842, have been before the Supreme Court at its late term. An unusual number of eminent counsel have been heard, on the one side and the other, in the several causes, and on the various questions presented to the Court. On Monday last a decision of the Court was pronounced by Mr. Justice NELSON; and a professional friend has, at our request, furnished us with a statement of the points understood to be decided, which we publish, as it may be a matter interesting to many.

First. The Court has decided, without any dissent or difference among the Judges, that it satisfactorily appears that WILLIAM WOODWORTH was the true original inventor of the planing machine.

Second. That his original patent for such invention was good and valid, and free from the objections urged against it.

Third. That its extension in 1842, by the decree of the Board of Commissioners, acceded to the benefit of the patentee, and not, generally speaking, to that of assignees of a part of the original patent; not continuing to such assignees under the original patent any right to make or vend the machines, or any exclusive right whatever. But, nevertheless, a majority of the Court were of opinion that an assignee or grantee, having actually purchased a machine before the expiration of the original patent, and being then in the actual use thereof, might continue the use of such machine.

From this latter part of the opinion on this point Justice McLEAN, Justice WAYNE, and Justice WOODBURY dissented, and the latter read an elaborate opinion giving his views on the subject.

Fourth. That certain covenants between Mr. WOODWORTH and those claiming with him, on the one part, and URI EMMONS and certain persons claiming with him, on the other part, did not, as had been contended, convey to the said EMMONS and his associates any interest in the extension or new patent.

Fifth. The extension or new patent was granted, not to WILLIAM WOODWORTH himself, but to his administrator. It had been contended that the act of 1836 did not authorize this, but the Court were of the opinion that it did, and that the extension to the administrator was lawfully made.

These several decisions, it is understood, fully establish the right of WILLIAM WOODWORTH and those claiming under him, and accomplish all the material objects sought by the several suits, with the exception of the limitation mentioned above under the third head.

The great usefulness and importance of the machine were fully shown, and indeed universally acknowledged on all hands. A model was brought into Court, and the operation of the machine was exhibited and explained by Mr. LATROBE, one of the counsel, with great clearness and felicity.

Our readers, we doubt not, will partake in the gratification which we ourselves feel, when genius and enterprise and great sacrifices for the public good meet at last, though late it be, their just reward. We hear, with pleasure, that all the learned Judges who gave opinions in the case concurred in sentiment that patents for useful inventions should be liberally construed and justly favored; that no country owed more of its progress in the arts to useful inventions by individuals than the United States; that the mechanical genius of the country ought to be fostered and encouraged; and that the idea that patents for inventions were in the nature of odious monopolies was unworthy of the age, and ought to be altogether rejected. In these just and liberal sentiments we doubt not that the learned members of the Bench will meet the hearty concurrence of all intelligent men. We will only add that, for ourselves, we have always thought that the deliberate and wilful infringement by one man on the fruits of another man's genius and invention, was aptly and appropriately denominated by a word which usually denotes the most offensive form of plunder, to wit, PIRACY.

We understand that ANDREW J. DONELSON, of Tennessee, has been nominated to the Senate as Minister Plenipotentiary to Prussia, in the place of HENRY WHEATON, who is recalled, it is said, at his own request.

THE Washington Union, in framing an indictment against the *National Intelligencer*, holds the following language:

"We charge the *Intelligencer* with having done that which, without any reference to party relations, is a gross and monstrous dereliction of all patriotic duty in a public journal, in that, pending important negotiations, full of difficulty and peril between our Government and Great Britain, it has systematically taken the British side, as to our title to the territory in dispute. In proof of this we say that the *Intelligencer* quoted and approved the assertion of the *Journal of Commerce* that 'the claim of England north of 49° is better than our own.'"

These two last facts are the Union's, the three first are our own. We will show one more first than the Union, at any rate. Bullying appears to be the order of the day, and we are determined to have our share of it. Bullying is the grand panacea, so fight if you dare! If the Union's bullying can frighten England, surely ours can frighten the British. Besides, who ever don't bully takes the "British side." He is a poor hand at jockeying that claims only what is his own, or only what he expects to get. Jockeying is a great help to bullying. The rule is, if you want a part claim the whole. Say it's all yours, and you will have it; then perhaps you will get a little more than belongs to you. If you do, crouch away and tell how you have outwitted your opponent. As for justice and equity, they are obsolete terms. National character is nothing; only drive a good bargain, and trust Fortune for the rest.

To be serious: We have read every thing which has appeared in the Union about the 49th parallel, and our title to the country north of it, but we have never noticed which at all convinces us of the incorrectness of the position above quoted, and which the Union has so often attempted to scout down because it cannot argue it down.—*Journal of Com.*

The Railroad between Madison and Indianapolis is going steadily ahead, and is expected to reach the latter place next fall, though this may not be until the ensuing spring.

BRITISH AFFAIRS AND OPINIONS.

The *London Times*, after reviewing the news by the Yorkshire from New York to January 18th, holds the following language in regard to the Oregon dispute, and the general considerations which should influence its settlement:

Having premised thus much in vindication of a course which has been misrepresented, and in explanation of phrases which, perhaps, ought to have been more minutely illustrated, or more specifically appropriated at the time they were written, we may now repeat our expression of a hope that the great difference between the two countries is capable of a peaceful and honorable adjustment. We have, indeed, read many hasty, many indecent, many rash, many irritating speeches, during the agitation of the Oregon dispute. We have also read fewer moderate and judicious speeches than we should *a priori* have expected to hear from the representatives of a people whose policy is dependent for its full security on the continuance of peace, and must be exposed to the greatest peril by any serious or protracted war; but the intelligence which reached us last night proves that there is more prudence in action than could be expected from the debate which preceded it, and a knowledge of the temper of the American constitutions, and the relations existing between American parties, induces us to believe that the professed war-party are far more desirous of hampering their Whig opponents at home than of forcing their country into a rupture with Great Britain.

A person who is an American people leads us to the conviction that the common sense of the American people is favorable to a policy which obviously suggests itself to every thinking mind throughout the world. It is impossible to settle the Oregon controversy on grounds of abstract right to the satisfaction of either party. We think that we are entitled to a *priori* right to the whole of the Oregon territory, and that the United States are entitled to a *priori* right to a vast extent of sterile domain. No man in England—no reflecting man in the Republic—would for a moment encourage the insane spirit of ambition which seeks to terminate a joint possession of more than fifty years by a sudden and aggressive assertion of a single undivided right. Humanity revolts at the idea. But pride—the pride of nationality—is equally offended at the notion of suffering a dishonorable ejection. How then to reconcile the two conflicting sentiments? How can this be done but in the manner we have already suggested? A great Republic will not bear to be humiliated. An ancient monarchy will not submit to humiliation. The identity and the power of both are essentially involved in extending protection to their subjects in the most distant settlements. America will not desert her citizens. England will not abandon her colonies, who have gone forth to brave the solitude of the forest and the lake, and pioneers of commerce, relying on her power and security for protection.

If this joint occupation is to be cancelled; if they who have hitherto lived together as members of one State are henceforth to be as strangers and aliens to each other, on what terms, on what terms alone, ought this separation to be effected? On what terms shall the United States give up an equality of advantages, local or commercial, to the two parties? It is absurd to talk of numbers of degrees, square miles, superficial area, and all those things which are hauled into this discussion, rather, we suppose, for purposes of complexity than any thing else. These are not the things of importance. No man in England will deny that the Americans know it. No man in America will deny that the English know it. It is not the number of degrees, but the equality of advantages, which is the thing to be considered. It is not the number of degrees, but the equality of advantages, which is the thing to be considered. It is not the number of degrees, but the equality of advantages, which is the thing to be considered.

LORD MORPETH, upon his election to Parliament, made a very long speech upon political topics, from which we make the following extract in reference to American affairs:

"They talk of a black cloud in the West, but the harvest is not so much to be feared. [Renewed and enthusiastic cheering.] I know that on the other side of the Atlantic they are uttering big words about Oregon, and we hear that the inhabitants of the Western States of the American Republic talk particularly loud on that subject, and that they are anxious to have a brush with us; whilst it seems to me, that the only thing which is more pacific in their dispositions. Why is this, gentlemen? It is in the nature of things that men should grow warlike as they live further West. No; it is because the inhabitants of the Eastern States have a large sea-bound coast, large manufacturing towns, and ships, and harbors, and commerce. They do not like to see things, and therefore they say, naturally and very lawfully, they are inclined for peace. [Heard cheerly.] But it is different with the Western States. In the first place, they are not so easily got at; in the next place they produce nothing but agricultural produce, and they know that if, besides living 5,000 or 6,000 miles away from us, the quarter of wheat, which they will be inclined to send us, will have to pay a duty of 50s. when it arrives, they will not be so ready to get rid of a single bushel of it, and therefore they fling up their caps for war. [Loud cheers.] But give them the same motives for peace which the inhabitants of the Eastern States have, and, being sprung from the same stock as their brethren of Boston and New York and Philadelphia, being the sons of the same God, and being themselves, they will be inclined to the same motives as their more sedate and sober fellow-countrymen, and instead of wishing themselves to go a thousand miles further, where they would meet more new tribes of Red Indians to contend against than draughts of water by the way; and when they arrived there to go to war with us for a number of unlimited years, they will be inclined to peace. [Loud cheering.] A little more skill on their own rich clay cottons, if you would, only give them the means of taking your cotton, your woolsens, your worsted, your hardware, in exchange for what they can send us, whether it be wheat or Indian corn—a food hitherto but little known among us, but which, from experience, I can safely recommend to you whenever you can get hold of it. You will find that some of our cases, which they call Johnny cakes, go hard to rival some of our far-famed Yorkshire cakes. [Cheers.] What I have said of the present state of America applies still more strongly to those parts of the American empire which have more intercourse with us, and still more to the countries of Europe in proportion to their proximity; and I rejoice to think that in extending and encouraging universal commerce, we take the best means of extending and encouraging universal peace. [Loud cheers.]

An important portion of the late news, politically speaking, is that relating to the course of affairs in the East. The war beyond the Sutlej, though expected for the last two or three years, seems to have broken out at last on the sudden; and, if the London Chronicle is to be believed, it took the Anglo-Indian forces somewhat unprepared. That journal gives the following account:

"Strange to say, they took the English authorities almost completely unawares, the cause of the war being the Sikhs themselves had ostentatiously given their intention to invade British India. The strength of our army was at a considerable distance—our artillery in one place, our cavalry in another, our infantry in a third, and our superior officers here and there and every where. There was consequently much surprise, great confusion, infinite hurrying to and fro, as though the Sikhs had dropped from the clouds without the slightest forewarning of their approach. Sir John Littler, with one division of the army, had to remain on the defensive in Ferozepore, throwing up works to enable him to hold out against the Sikhs till the rest of the army, under Sir Henry Hardinge and Sir Hugh Gough, should come to his relief. This state of things inspired the enemy with unbounded confidence, while it threw a damp over the minds of our own subjects and troops, some of whom, it is said, went over to the Sikhs."

"When at length, after many efforts, the Governor-General found himself where he ought to be, some of the Sikhs, the enemy had taken up strong positions, from which it would be in the first place necessary to dislodge him. The centre of the British army was led to the attack by the Governor-General in person, Sir Hugh Gough commanding on the right, while Sir John Littler led on the left wing. It was not an onset and a rout, a display of force and courage, but a part and of weakness and pusillanimity on that of our force. On the contrary, the Sikhs fought bravely, made a decisive impression on our left wing, maintained the contest day and night for three days, and when the last courier left the field of battle, though their loss in men and guns had been prodigious, were still left fighting. Therefore, though we entertain not a shadow of apprehension respecting the result of the war, it cannot be said that, in their military capacity at least, the Sikhs have behaved unworthily. Discipline has not been thrown away upon them. Turbulent and lawless as have been their proceedings at home, they have fought gallantly, more gallantly even than we had anticipated, beyond their frontier, so that their descent from the pinnacle of power to the level of a subjugated race will not altogether be inglorious or inconsistent with the reputation of lions, which they have long assumed to themselves."

IRELAND.

FROM THE LONDON TIMES.

There appears to be no longer a doubt that an almost universal famine is about to visit that devoted island. Such is the dire reality which has been looming upon us through the mist of Irish rumor and English incredulity these four or five months, and which now is too distinct and too palpable to be any longer denied. But the worst feature of the case is the almost utter absence of resource. A dreadful visitation of nature is aggravated by the imperfect character of our social institutions. It is impossible to hit on a remedy which shall not run into abuse, pass into a vicious precedent, and perhaps to a great extent nullify itself, and perpetuate the misery it affects to cure.

The Commissioners to investigate the condition of Ireland say in a report "from undoubted authority that 32 counties in Ireland, not one has escaped failure of the potato crop; of 130 poor law unions, not one is exempt of 2,058 electoral divisions, above 1,400 are certainly reported as having suffered."

THE PRICE OF GRAIN in the United States have undergone little or no variation since the intelligence arrived of Sir ROBERT PEEL'S proposed changes in the British tariff and corn laws. But on the Continent of Europe the case is otherwise. At Hamburg, by the last advices, wheat had advanced one to two shillings per quarter; rye was in great demand; "large transactions," says the circular, "have taken place on the spot and from outports, at fully two shillings per quarter advance." Barley and oats were also at enhanced prices. At Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Odessa similar improvements in the prices of grain had taken place. Upon the receipt of the English news at Antwerp wheat advanced three shillings per quarter.

It is from these and other adjoining sources that the British market is supplied with grain whenever importations are called for. The ports in Holland are great depots for Baltic wheat, which remains thus stored up awaiting favorable chances in the operation of the sliding scale, and ready for any contingency which may procure access to the English market.

In the event of a scarcity on the Continent of Europe, as well as in Great Britain, the abrogation of the corn laws would doubtless give admission to American grain in considerable quantities. But that would have followed if the sliding scale system had been continued. In general, we should contend at a great disadvantage with the Baltic and Black Sea producers, who are not only nearer the British market, and therefore more able to avail themselves of every opportunity as it may offer, but who have also another advantage in the low rates of agricultural labor.—*Baltimore American*.

PENNSYLVANIA CANAL.—It is said that the repairs to these works have been completed, and that navigation will be opened as soon as the weather will permit.

At the charter election held in Detroit, Michigan, last week, the *Democratic* party were elected a majority of one vote. Their majority last year was sixty. The Whigs have also secured a majority of the City Council.

The charter election in Cleveland, Ohio, on Monday last week, resulted in the election of the Whig Mayor, Whig Treasurer, and one half the Council. Last year the Locos elected their Mayor and a decided majority of the Council. The Birney candidate received only 85 votes out of 1,300 polled.

The *Galveston News* publishes, in a late number of that paper, the act of Congress extending the jurisdiction of our Government over Texas, and also the instructions of the Secretary of the Treasury to the collectors of Texas. The Treasury circular from Washington, which accompanied the act of our Congress, fixed the 31st of December as the time from which the United States revenue laws should commence their operation. On the faith of this circular, says the *News*, a large amount of goods was shipped to Galveston under the expectation that they would be admitted free. The Texas Treasury instructions, however, required the collectors to continue their functions, in conformity with the laws of Texas, until the 16th of February, and thereafter, if a collector appointed by the U. S. Government should not have been received. Thus were created, says that paper, forty-seven days of conflicting jurisdiction, duties after the 31st December not being collectable under the United States law, but collectable under that of Texas. The *News*, in nearly two columns of comment upon this state of things, is severe upon the Texas authorities.

GREAT GERMAN RAILROAD.—Letters from Berlin state that, owing to the favorable weather this winter, the work on the great Silesian railway has been carried on without the least interruption, so that it is now certain that the road will be completed in the course of the next summer, when one may go from Berlin to Vienna and to Graz, in the Austrian States, by a line of railroad which will present but one, and that a very small gap, viz., that of the magnificent viaduct over the valley and the river Neisse, near Goritz, and which is made from the immense works of stone and iron erected in making solid foundations for the pillars of the central arches of the viaduct. This is to be of an elevation of nearly a hundred and twenty-eight feet above the level of the water. Until this viaduct (which is to cost a million of thalers) is completed, the Government is building a bridge over the Neisse, by which railway travelers can cross the road, which will be detained not more than half an hour. This great Silesian railroad will cross the principal centers of the commerce and industry of this province; that is to say, Breslau, Oppeln, Goritz, Oelberg, the latter situated on the frontiers of Moravia.

OLD MANUSCRIPTS.—We understand that several weeks since, whilst some workmen were engaged in taking down an old stone building on the dock at Roundout, in this town, a box was discovered hidden in some way between the floor and the ceiling, and in it was found a large quantity of continental money, (several millions of dollars, it is stated), together with a great number of old manuscript papers relating to Revolutionary affairs. One of those we have seen. It was a letter signed by Pierre Van Cortlandt, President of the Senate, and Evert Barendse, Speaker of the Assembly, dated at Kingston, June 30, 1780, and directed to some one at Rochester, in Ulster county, calling on them to aid the cause of independence by furnishing clothing for the soldiers. We learn, also, that those papers, as is usual in such cases, were scattered about the village, and are in the possession of different persons. We are sorry for this, as from what we have heard and seen, they are papers of some value as respects the history of that time, and we doubt not would be of service in obtaining a correct knowledge of the events of that period; and we trust that means will be taken to collect them and ascertain their contents and value.—*Kingston (N. Y.) Journal*.

MISS DIX IN KENTUCKY.—We learn by the *Frankfort Commonwealth* that Miss Dix has been successful in her applications to the Legislature of Kentucky for the erection of a State Asylum for the insane poor; a bill